

that serves as an inspiration to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this outstanding American. His contributions to freedom's cause cannot be forgotten.

# TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUT TROOP 283

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the proud history, rich tradition and remarkable accomplishments of Boy Scout Troop 283 of Wayzata, MN, in my Third Congressional District.

This Sunday, November 19, Troop 283 will be celebrating its 80th anniversary.

I am particularly proud of Boy Scout Troop 283 since it is based at my own Wayzata Community Church. I know the great work this troop has done and its commitment to excellence.

Boy Scout Troop 283 has represented the highest standards in Scouting for eight decades. The hundreds of Scouts and their many volunteer leaders have displayed an inspiring dedication through these past 80 years which has had a powerful and positive impact on the quality of life in our area.

The young people of today, who now more than ever need strong adult guidance and parental involvement in learning valuable skills that will help them mature into good citizens, have been extremely well-served by the generous and dedicated volunteers and parents who have led Troop 283 through the years.

Troop 283's emphasis on providing our young people with positive role models, the importance of community service to help people in the need and protect the environment, and the critical value of exercising active, good citizenship has been truly remarkable. There is no price you can place on that kind of public service, leadership, and good citizenship.

The participation of adult volunteers and the Scouts of Troop 283 will continue to make a huge difference in the future of our community, State, and Nation. These young people are tomorrow's leaders and they are getting the skills, knowledge, moral guidance, and inspiration they need to keep America the greatest country in the world and a lighthouse for freedom and liberty into the 21st century.

Everyone who has been involved with Boy Scout Troop 283 through the years is to be congratulated on their invaluable 80-year investment in the future of our Nation. Troop 283 has our deepest admiration and sincerest gratitude for a job well done, as well as our best wishes for the future.

On behalf of all the people in our area, I wholeheartedly thank Boy Scout Troop 283 for its contributions to making our area a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

# REQUEST TO DISCHARGE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 119, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 1995*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2621, the bill which the Republicans say is to enforce the public debt limit and to protect the Social Security Trust Fund, and other Federal Trust fund accounts invested in public debt obligation. Once again, more Republican smoke and mirrors. Make no mistake about it, H.R. 2621 is the Republicans' measure to force the Government to default on its obligations.

It is appalling for the Republicans to hold the country, and the American people hostage to their politically contrived and premeditated train wreck. Is there no limit to the extreme tactics that the Republicans will use to force a tax cut for the wealthy. The Republicans have forced the Federal Government to shut down; are striving to force the Government to renege on its debts; are bent on forcing seniors to pay more for less health care; are set of forcing poor children and pregnant women to go without critical health care services; and are set on forcing college students to pay more for their college education. Despite the fact the Republicans' budget defies logic and common sense, they want to force the President to agree to their life threatening budget provisions.

Now, they have introduced H.R. 2621 a measure strictly designed to back the country into a corner, and to force the Government to default—all this destruction, just to give a tax cut to the rich. The Republicans' tantrum tactics must end.

Mr. Speaker, a family would not pay off its mortgage in 7 years if it meant that they had to take food out of the mouths of their children. Both food and shelter are a necessity, it is not a one, or the other situation. The Republicans need to take a lesson from families. Families sensibly balance their responsibilities. Families sensibly spread their debt—and their payments for services over time.

The Republican budget measure is not a balanced budget mechanism—it is a measure that is specifically designed to destroy the quality of life for the most vulnerable in our society—children and the elderly. Those who have entrusted us with their future, and who are most vulnerable to the Republicans' assault.

I applaud the President for this strong leadership, and wholeheartedly support his veto of the Republicans' front-loaded continuing resolution, and debt limit measures.

Day after day, we have heard our Republican colleagues refer to Medicaid and Medicare as "socialized programs." We have heard them use phrases like "we have to get on with it," "the pain is not so severe," and "we have to hold the President's feet to the fire." We have also continuously heard the Republicans speak with concern for the unborn children of

the future, while showing no compassion for the children who walk among us today—despite the fact that the Republican budget takes food out of mouths of poor children; takes the roof from over the heads of door seniors; and takes away health care services from pregnant women. These senior's and children's future will be crippled and their very survival jeopardized.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have never had any intention of sending the President a clean continuing resolution measure, or a clean debt limit bill. The Republican touted crown jewel in their contract—the tax cut give away for the rich—knows no bounds. As early as April, House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH vowed to create a titanic legislative standoff with the President by adding vetoed bills to must pass debt ceiling legislation. As recently as July, the GOP admitted that default was a major political weapon in their arsenal. The Republicans' escalating mean spirited attack is firm evidence that they think that no child's cry is too harsh, and no senior's pain is too bitter to forgo their tax cut give away to the rich.

Over the past 11 months, the Nation has witnessed the unfolding of the Republicans' premeditated assault on the most vulnerable in our society—children and the elderly. Nearly 6 weeks into the new fiscal year, work on 10 of the 13 appropriations bills is still pending. The Republicans are dragging their feet. If Speaker GINGRICH and his cohorts performed their responsibilities in a timely and responsible manner, there would be no need to bring the Federal Government to a halt.

With each day of the Republican-forced shut down of the Federal Government, 20 thousand new Social Security claims will not be processed. With each day of the Republican-forced shut down of the Federal Government, 2,500 to 3,000 veterans' benefits claims will not be processed. The American people must not be held hostage to the GOP's tax cut for the rich.

Again, I applaud President Clinton for vetoing the Republicans' life threatening budget and debt ceiling measures. I commend him for his principled stand to protect the American people. And, I join President Clinton in condemning the Republican leadership for its shameful attempt to blackmail the oval office by holding seniors, children, veterans, and our Nation's economy hostage.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that it is the height of irresponsibility for the Republicans in Congress to force American citizens to suffer inconvenience and hardship simply because they are trying to score political points. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 2621.

# SALUTE TO AMERICORPS PARTICIPANTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the participants of the second AmeriCorps team in South Dakota. On October 24, 1995, at an Oath of Service ceremony in Rosebud, SD, 15 dedicated individuals committed themselves to 1 year of community service in South Dakota as participants in the AmeriCorps Program. I strongly